

Open Academy Newsletter 13 October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

It has been a wonderful week at Open Academy. I have had the privilege to visit many classes through the week and have seen the students working hard in all their subjects. I want to see every student trying their best in all the activities. It was noticeable on Monday and Tuesday that there were a few more empty seats than usual as bugs are ripping through the community. Students are recovering and returning now. Thank you to all the parents that let us know about the illness in good time. It really helps.

Last night there was a wonderful awards ceremony. You may be aware that we were nominated as EDP Secondary School of the Year. This was a remarkable achievement. Whilst we did not win that category the greatest cheer of the evening was for Student of the Year. It was for our very own Shadrack who was in Year 13 last year. He is fully deserving of the award. He truly lived the values of the academy in all his interactions with his peers and younger students. It is amazing to have been nominated at all considering the huge competition across private and state schools.



This week had World Mental Health Day. There are many campaigns that promote mental health. It is well understood that some of the damage caused by the pandemic was because we could not communicate properly with lots of people. This is one of reasons why we do not allow students to use their mobile phones in school. We want them to talk to each other, make friends and discuss things. More face-to-face interactions help students resolve minor difficulties before they become serious. There was a very powerful video released by Norwich City this week: [Norwich City World Mental Health Day Video](#)

A vital part of our academy work is done by the governing body. It is a wonderful opportunity to develop skills and give back to the community. There are many employers who give specific time for volunteering. Before you decide to nominate someone, or indeed stand yourself, you may want to know a bit more about what is involved. Governors need not be experts in the field of education. What they do need is an interest in the school and in the welfare of our children and the time and willingness to get involved. The skills you have can be very useful to the local governing body. At the moment the governing body is lacking governors who have expertise in Finance and HR though this should not deter those with other expertise from applying. If you are someone with the required experience, would you consider applying? Governors also need what are known as 'soft skills' – the ability to be able to build relationships with a range of people, to be able to work as part of a team, to be able to question, and to make connections between different types of information. If you are interested please see the attached letter and contact patotheprincipal@open-academy.org.uk.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mr Ward
Vice Principal

1. SRB

Shout outs to:

Theo - Year 7 - Becoming an independent learner.

Jake - Year 8 - For initiating open conversation.

Steven – Year 10 For being the best version of you can be!

Leo - Year 11 - Excellent attitude to learning this week.

Mrs Gallard (Teacher)

2. Year 7

With it being Friday, 13th I do hope that your day is not unlucky, hopefully the poor weather today was the only downside of the day. I cannot believe this time next week it will be the end of Year 7's first half term in the academy.

A reminder of the uniform policy, students must wear blazers in the academy, they may take them off in classrooms, please can we have neutral coloured socks, no gravity socks please (these can only be used for drama lessons). I want our year group to be as smart as possible and to have the best uniform in the academy which we currently are. Also, a reminder to label uniform, water bottles etc.

Our top achieving students this week are:

Phoebe B, Lacey-Mae M, Ameera J, Charlie S, Charlie S, Ellie-Mae B, Dante D, Rowan S, Ella-Mai P and Riley H.

Praise from around the academy:

I would like to say well done to all the netball Year 7 girls - I had 14 last night which means there is two teams to take to the fixture on Wednesday next week! We still need a few subs if anyone else is interested – Miss Trail.

Mackenzie M for making connections in his maths and being resilient to keep trying when he finds work challenging – Mrs Day.

Ashanti G - showing an interest in science and lending me a periodic table book – Mr Murray.

To the girls who keep attending football practice on a Monday! Well done, keep it up ready for matches and smash ups after half term! – Mrs Hindry.

Jack S for his effort in German – Mrs McEvoy.

Elise S and Dante D for excellent group work, teaching from the board, listening to others and explaining how to do a method the correct way – Mrs Marsham.

Izzy W continues to impress with her charm and keenness - and growing ability – Mr Edwards.

Mr Lambert (Head of Year 7)

Mrs Roe (Assistant Head of Year 7)

Mr Hawkins (Assistant Head of Year 8)

3. Year 9

Shout outs to:

Sasha P – excellent effort in Geography, great answers to questions thinking about problem solving

Esme W - excellent effort in Geography, great answers to questions thinking about problem solving

Trixie B – Geography - Lots of very good responses to prior learning questions (retrieval of knowledge)

Jayce B – Geography - Lots of very good responses to prior learning questions (retrieval of knowledge)
Reece Y – Geography - Lots of very good responses to prior learning questions (retrieval of knowledge)
Aisosa H – Geography - some great answers to questioning
Logan W – Great effort and attention in Science
Samuel H – Good answers to questions in Science
Lena W – Good answers to questions in Science
Martha V - Massive well done extension work in German

Top achievers this week are:

Lily A, Jayce B, Ross B, Jason J, Lois L, Happiness O, Zena A, Ada A, Natacha F, Aisosa H, Charlie J, Olivier K, Annalee R, Tiffany S, Kate S, Ayo T, Martha W, Lena W and Eise W.

The academy takes pride in the appearance of its students and we are grateful for the continued co-operation of parents in maintaining standards. If further clarification is required, please see the link to the uniform page on the website is:

<https://www.open-academy.org.uk/parent/uniform/>

Please contact the year team if there is a genuine reason a student is not in uniform.

Mrs Power (Head of Year 9)

Mrs Edwards (Temporary Assistant Head of Year 9)

4. Year 10

This academic year, Year 10 students will have the opportunity to participate in a work experience placement. On **Wednesday, 22 November** there will be a parents' evening with a short presentation and Q&A session to talk about this.

Thank you to all the students who have applied to be student leaders, we will be announcing the different roles next week!!!

Hub is up and running on Tuesday night in S56, 3-4pm, currently this is a drop in session. Students can come in and stay as long as they like in a relaxed and supportive environment to complete homework with access to lots of resources including IT.

Now the weather is getting colder students must be in blazers and may wear a school jumper underneath if they wish. Hoodies and other jumpers, even if they are black, are not permitted. School is a professional environment and uniform can help many students separate social time from learning time. We expect ties to be neat and top buttons to be done up.

Congratulations to the following students for gaining the most achievement points this week:

Areen, Kayne B, David, Grace S, Oscar B and Tyler H

Well done Year 10 business students who have made a great start to the year with their project work - Mrs Tyler and Mr Dilley.

Mrs Pearsall and Miss Whitwood (Heads of Year 10)

Mrs Lamb (Assistant Head of Year 10)

5. Year 11

A really positive week for the vast majority. I have been really impressed with the increased work ethic and commitment from Year 11 since coming back from the summer holidays. It has been great to see the students in after school Hubs taking advantage of all the help on offer.

On this note, just a reminder that all Hubs are compulsory, and they are providing a crucial boost to students understanding in their final year.

We will have a guest speaker in next Friday during assembly to talk to the students about Post-16 options, so I am encouraging parents/carers to have conversations with your child about their options for next year. It is very important that the students have a goal to aim at as their results in the summer will directly affect this.

Below is a selection of students from those who received the most achievement points over the last week. Some new names on here which is good to see:

Lucy E, Lewis S, Suzy L, Andrew C, Ariya R, Jessica B and Norah W.

We are holding a bake sale on Tuesday as part of our fund-raising for Prom. This is a CASH-ONLY event so we cannot take online payments.

Mr Walters (Temporary Head of Year 11)

Mrs Smith (Assistant Head of Year 11)

6. 6th Form

Last night I had the privilege of being invited along to the Eastern Daily Press Education Awards 2023 ceremony held at Barnham Broom Golf Club.

Not only was Open Academy shortlisted as a finalist for Secondary School of the Year, but ex Year 13 pupil Shadrak Mushengezi was also a finalist in the Student of the Year category. Getting into the final 3 in itself was a huge accolade!

Unfortunately, we didn't win the school category (although we all know we are a winning academy), but we are absolutely delighted to share that Shadrak won his category! The elation we all felt cannot be described in words. There wasn't a dry eye in the house as they read why he had won his award. Shadrak is an extraordinary individual and we are so proud that the Eastern Daily Press recognised his greatness just as much as we always have. He will go on to do great things and make a change in this world, I have absolutely no doubt.

So ... we can now shout from the rooftops that the 2023 EDP Student of the Year for Norfolk is our very own Shadrak!

Mrs Molloy (Head of 6th Form)

7. Chaplain's Reflection

This week I want to share one of my favourite stories about a man in the Bible called Elijah. God told him to go and hide out in a place called Kerith Brook, because he was in danger. The word Kerith means winter stream and he would have water there to drink and God also had commanded ravens to bring him food to sustain him.

Two things here that we can take notice of:

1. Kerith brook or winter stream signifies a place of hardship or waiting.
2. Ravens are scavengers, they don't give food away and it was a miracle in itself that food got through to Elijah.

The story goes on to say that God looked after Elijah and sustained him through troubled times. Maybe we find ourselves at this time camped in a place of hardship, waiting for answers, asking for wisdom for decisions that we need to make or questions that we need answering.

Be encouraged that just like in the story of Elijah, trust that all that you need this week will come to you to sustain, strengthen, give you wisdom and over and above what you would even expect.

God bless you, you are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Mark Pimlott (Chaplain)

8. Religious Studies



Walsingham - The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham

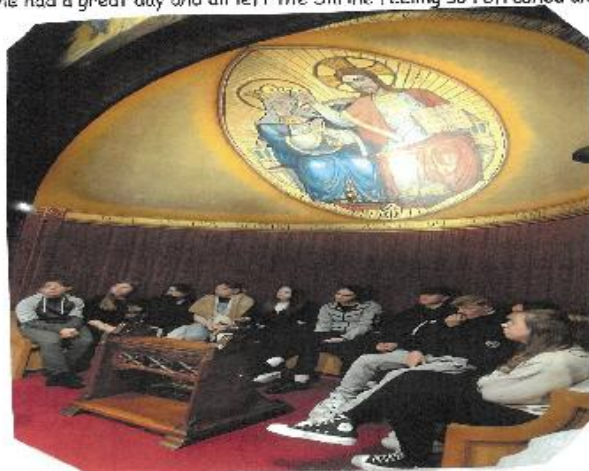
On Friday the 22 September, Mark Pimlott, Jackie Appleby and I took 15 Year 11 pupils to Walsingham. We study Christianity as one of our religions in GCSE RS and our aim of the trip was to learn more about Walsingham as a place of pilgrimage.

Our day was planned by the educational department at Walsingham. We were welcomed at the Shrine by a guide called Alan. He spent the day with us, teaching us everything about the history of The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham.

We explored the ruins of the Abbey, visited the Modern Shrine and had a talk and discussion on the importance of pilgrimage for Christians today.

Our pupils had some time for personal reflection, an opportunity to light a candle in the Holy House and to take part in a short service of "Sprinkling" with other pilgrims who were at the Shrine.

Everyone had a great day and all left the Shrine feeling so refreshed and good.



Mrs Thoppil (Teacher)